

Community Residential Recovery Group
February 1, 2006

Scott Thompson, Michael Sabourin, Nick Emlen, Michael Hartman, Roxie Moran, Jo Ellen Swaine, Kate Plummer, Sandy Smith, Tom Simpatico, Beth Tanzman, Wendy Beininger, Anne Donahue, Lee Suskin, Anne Jerman, Linda Corey, Bonnie Haskins, UVM Nursing Students,

Beth Gave a brief update on matters regarding the state of the Futures endeavor, primarily which involved the meeting shortly after this one to discuss the Greensboro Plan. From there we proceeded directly to the discussion of legal issues.

Wendy noted that there are about 170 persons on ONH status at any given time and gave an overview of the process involved in an ONH filing and then reviewed the revocation process when there is a question of violation of the orders conditions. Lee offered that the court has no established guidelines that are used for ONH matters. Some other court proceedings do have such guidelines regarding days from filing to hearing, but this has not been requested for ONH process. He offered that it seemed quite possible to create such guidelines and would be happy to work with DMH Legal, the Mental Health Law Project, and CRT Directors to create a timeline to more clearly define the process.

There was discussion of whether there might be a two tiered process in the revocation process with special consideration for persons who are in the Community Recovery Residences due to their population, but also spoken to was the question of creating such a process in terms of other consumers in the system of care. Lee was clear in his sense that the small numbers of ONH's overall seemed manageable by the courts, thus either method would be workable. Lee left the meeting with an understanding that there will be follow up discussions with some proposals back to the subcommittee.

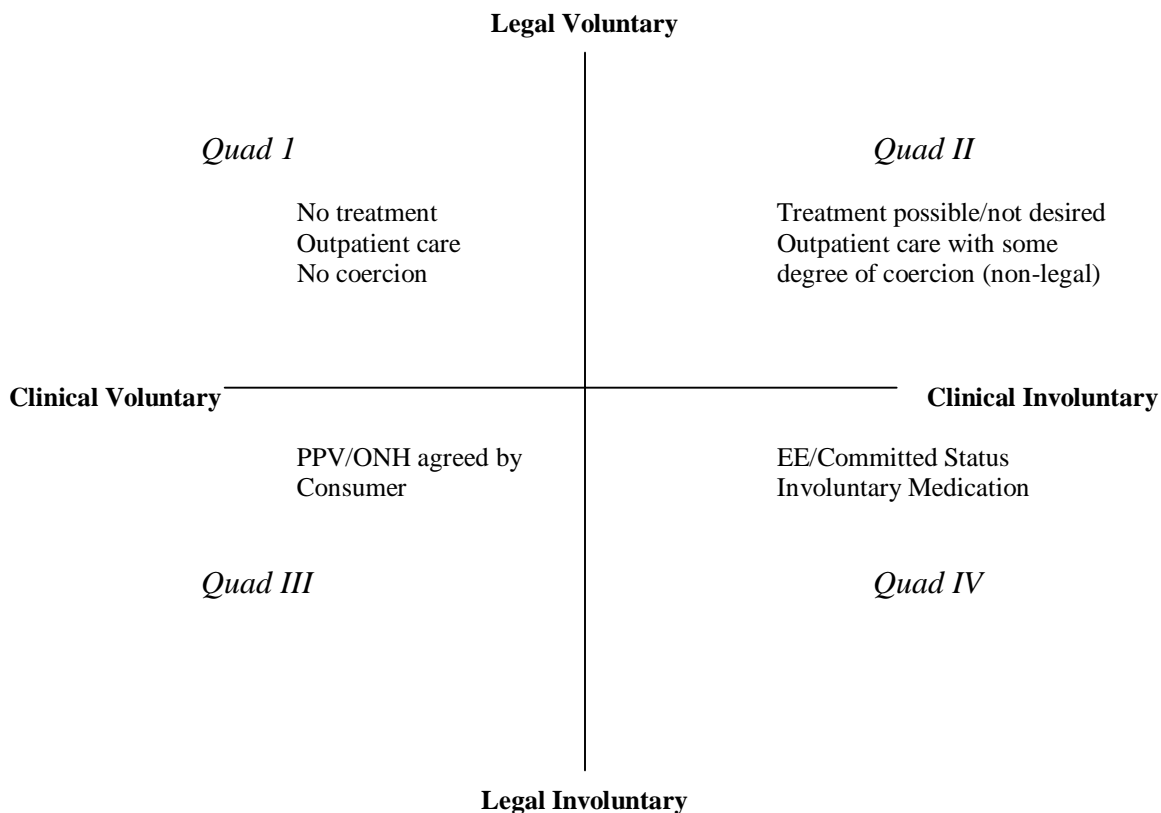
The above discussion led the group back to an overall review of the question regarding voluntary and involuntary status. Conceptually an idea emerged which seemed to capture the concerns and understanding of each status. In the graphic that follows Quadrants (Quad) I, II, III, and IV illustrate the continuum of Legal Status (voluntary to involuntary) and a Clinical Choice status which attempts to capture the willingness of a consumer to collaborate with treatment. The attempt here is to define in each quadrant how legal status and clinical status intersect within the system of care. The quadrants then range from voluntary/voluntary *Quad I* in which the consumer makes all choice for care to involuntary/involuntary *Quad IV* in which the consumer is both clinically and legally bound to treatment and often custody as well. It is hoped this will help the dialogue regarding what level of care can be provided in the Community Recovery Residences (CRR's). In each quadrant from *I* onward to *IV* the degree of coercion would be increasing:

- In *I* there would be no coercion, and a consumer might have not need for treatment or want treatment with no coercion present in the decision;

- In *II* there might be pressure by clinical care providers, family/support persons, and others for some form of treatment or intervention, but with some degree of coercion though the legal status would remain voluntary;
- In *III* there would be some legal coercion for treatment i.e. an ONH, a PPV, or a condition via the courts or Department of Corrections. In this quadrant the consumer would be accepting and collaborative with the advised treatment;
- In *IV* there would be both legal involuntary status and no clinical choice for care as advised by the provider.

None of these assignments to quadrants need be time limited, as all would be assigned by both legal action by the provider and by collaboration between the consumer and the system of care. However the Clinical Choice continuum could easily change on a day to day basis without third party intervention.

Voluntary Involuntary Status



Next Meeting is Wednesday 2/22/06 at the WCMHS Moody Court offices in Waterbury. These offices are located on the backside of the Rusty Parker Park on Main St, in the Green Building to the right of the Railroad Station. Phone for directions: 839-0332. Call in number for conference calling is 1-877-278-8686 and the participant code is 460795